

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2005
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 19, 2005
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 12, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 640

Introduced by Senator Escutia

February 22, 2005

An act relating to child care, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 640, as amended, Escutia. Child care: children with ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities.

Existing law, the Child Care and Development Services Act, provides for a system of child care and development services for children, including children with exceptional needs, by public and private child care providers.

This bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 from one-time only federal quality carryover funds within the State Department of Education ~~for purposes of funding to fund~~, beginning in the 2005–06 fiscal year, state-funded child care resource and referral programs for certain activities related to child care and development services with respect to serving children with ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:

1 (1) A compelling body of research demonstrates that early
2 identification and intervention for young children with
3 disabilities results in a decrease in the need for special education
4 placements upon arrival in the public school system.

5 (2) A large number of children receive child care through
6 licensed family day care, child care centers, and in
7 license-exempt care.

8 (3) Training and technical assistance enhances the ability of a
9 child care provider to identify and accommodate the needs of
10 young children with disabilities.

11 (4) Child care resource and referral programs are uniquely
12 suited to provide training and technical assistance to assist child
13 care providers increase their ability to serve children with
14 ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities.

15 (5) As the single state-funded entity that serves all parents
16 regardless of income, child care resource and referral programs
17 are uniquely suited to assist the families of children with
18 ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities become aware of their rights to
19 access child care services and to connect families with the
20 services available in their community.

21 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that children
22 with ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities be fully included in child care
23 programs.

24 SEC. 2. (a) The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is
25 hereby appropriated from one-time only federal quality carryover
26 funds within the State Department of Education ~~for the purposes~~
27 ~~of funding to fund~~, beginning in the 2005–06 fiscal year,
28 state-funded child care resource and referral programs, for the
29 ~~following activities related to child care and development~~
30 ~~services:~~

31 ~~(a) For the purposes of increasing the capacity of state~~
32 ~~subsidized and nonstate subsidized child care providers to serve~~
33 ~~children with exceptional needs~~ disabilities in child care settings
34 that meet their developmental needs, consistent with the intent of
35 the Child Care and Development Services Act pursuant to
36 Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 8200) of Part 6 of the
37 Education Code. A child care resource and referral agency may
38 expend funds granted to it pursuant to this subdivision for any of
39 the following:

1 (1) To provide child care referrals to parents seeking child care
2 for their children with ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities, or at high
3 risk of being identified as having ~~exceptional needs~~ a disability,
4 and parental support as necessary.

5 (2) To contract for various purposes that may include, but are
6 not limited to, providing training and technical assistance to child
7 care and development providers to increase their capacity to care
8 for children with ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities, or at high risk of
9 being identified as having ~~exceptional needs~~ a disability.
10 *Training and technical assistance may be provided in-house by a*
11 *child care resource and referral agency rather than by contract.*

12 (3) To conduct awareness and outreach to child care and
13 development providers to increase their knowledge and
14 understanding of the ~~American~~ Americans with Disabilities Act
15 (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
16 (IDEA) to accommodate children with ~~exceptional needs~~
17 disabilities, or at high risk of being identified as having
18 ~~exceptional needs~~ a disability, and to increase their awareness of
19 available support services to assist them ~~meet~~ *in meeting* the
20 needs of all children.

21 (4) To conduct awareness and outreach to parents of children
22 with ~~exceptional needs~~ disabilities, or at high risk of being
23 identified as having ~~exceptional needs~~ a disability, to increase
24 their understanding of their rights to accessible child care and to
25 increase their awareness of available services, provided that the
26 activities contracted for further the purposes of this subdivision.

27 (b) The State Department of Education shall develop an
28 allocation plan to distribute funds appropriated pursuant to this
29 section. The allocation plan shall be developed using the ratio of
30 the number of children ages birth to 12 years, inclusive, within
31 each county to the total number of children in the state who are
32 birth to 12 years of age. The county allocation shall be developed
33 by applying the county ratio to the five million dollars
34 (\$5,000,000) after a minimum allocation of three thousand
35 dollars (\$3,000) is set aside for ~~the smallest counties~~ *each of the*
36 *smallest counties, and after three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is set*
37 *aside for the smallest counties that would otherwise receive less*
38 *than three thousand (\$3,000), based on the allocation plan.*

39 (c) A state-funded child care resource and referral program
40 interested in applying for the available funds *appropriated*

1 *pursuant to this section* shall submit a proposal to the State
2 Department of Education for the use of the funds, based on
3 identified community needs and include a plan of how the
4 approved activities will be implemented at the local level.

5 (d) The State Department of Education, in coordination with
6 the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, shall
7 develop a uniform reporting process to obtain data on the use and
8 effectiveness of ~~these funds~~ *the funds appropriated pursuant to*
9 *this section.*